

Introduced by Senator Denham

January 4, 2006

An act relating to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1117, as introduced, Denham. University of California: executive compensation.

The California Constitution establishes the University of California as a public trust with full powers of organization and government, as provided, and administered by the Regents of the University of California. The California Constitution also requires meetings of the regents to be public, with specified exceptions and notice requirements. Existing law permits the regents to conduct closed sessions when they meet to consider or discuss specified topics, including, but not limited to, matters concerning the appointment, employment, performance, compensation, or dismissal of university officers or employees, excluding individual regents other than the president of the university. Existing law requires action by the regents on compensation proposals for the consideration of compensation for the principal officers of the regents and the officers of the university, as specified, to be only in open session. Existing law specifies that the compensation for the principal officers of the regents and the officers of the university includes salary, benefits, perquisites, specified severance payments, retirement benefits, or any other form of compensation.

This bill would express the intent of the legislature to enact legislation that ensures that the regents immediately discontinue the practice of holding secret meetings to award salaries and benefits to University of California management executives and to strongly urge the regents to annually and fully disclose any and all compensation

that every University of California management executive receives in a report to the legislature. The bill would further express the intent of the legislature to propose that the people of the state amend the California Constitution to eliminate the independence of the University of California, if the Regents of the University of California refuse to voluntarily disclose the system of compensating University of California management executives. The bill would also make legislative findings and declarations relating to the compensation of executives of the University of California.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:
- 3 (1) The University of California is an independent state
4 agency, established as a public trust by Section 9 of Article IX of
5 the California Constitution.
- 6 (2) Over the last several years, the University of California has
7 not followed standard state open meeting regulations when
8 approving salaries and benefits of University of California
9 management executives.
- 10 (3) Several University of California management executives
11 have received outrageous salary hikes, sometimes without public
12 notice. In addition, several University of California management
13 executives have received secret benefits, including housing,
14 moving, and transfer allowances well beyond those of other state
15 employees.
- 16 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that
17 ensures that the Regents of the University of California
18 immediately discontinue the practice of holding secret meetings
19 to award salaries and benefits to University of California
20 management executives and to strongly urge the Regents of the
21 University of California to annually and fully disclose any and all
22 compensation that every University of California management
23 executive receives in a report to the Legislature.
- 24 (c) It is further the intent of the Legislature to propose that the
25 people of the state amend the California Constitution to eliminate
26 the independence of the University of California, if the Regents

1 of the University of California refuse to voluntarily disclose the
2 system of compensating University of California management
3 executives.

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